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Massive cuts for cultural centre

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre will get hit with a big funding cut in 2016 and likely next year as well.

During a Jan. 28 meeting, Minden Hills council ordered community services director Mark Coleman to cut \$50,000 from the cultural centre's \$340,000 draft budget and Reeve Brent Devolin said he wants to see an additional \$50,000 cut from the centre's budget in 2017.

"A year ago, the most striking number I saw on the budget was the cultural centre cost," Devolin said, adding that he'd hoped the layoff of one of the centre's two curators early last year would've made a difference. "Part of my expectation was that we would see savings."

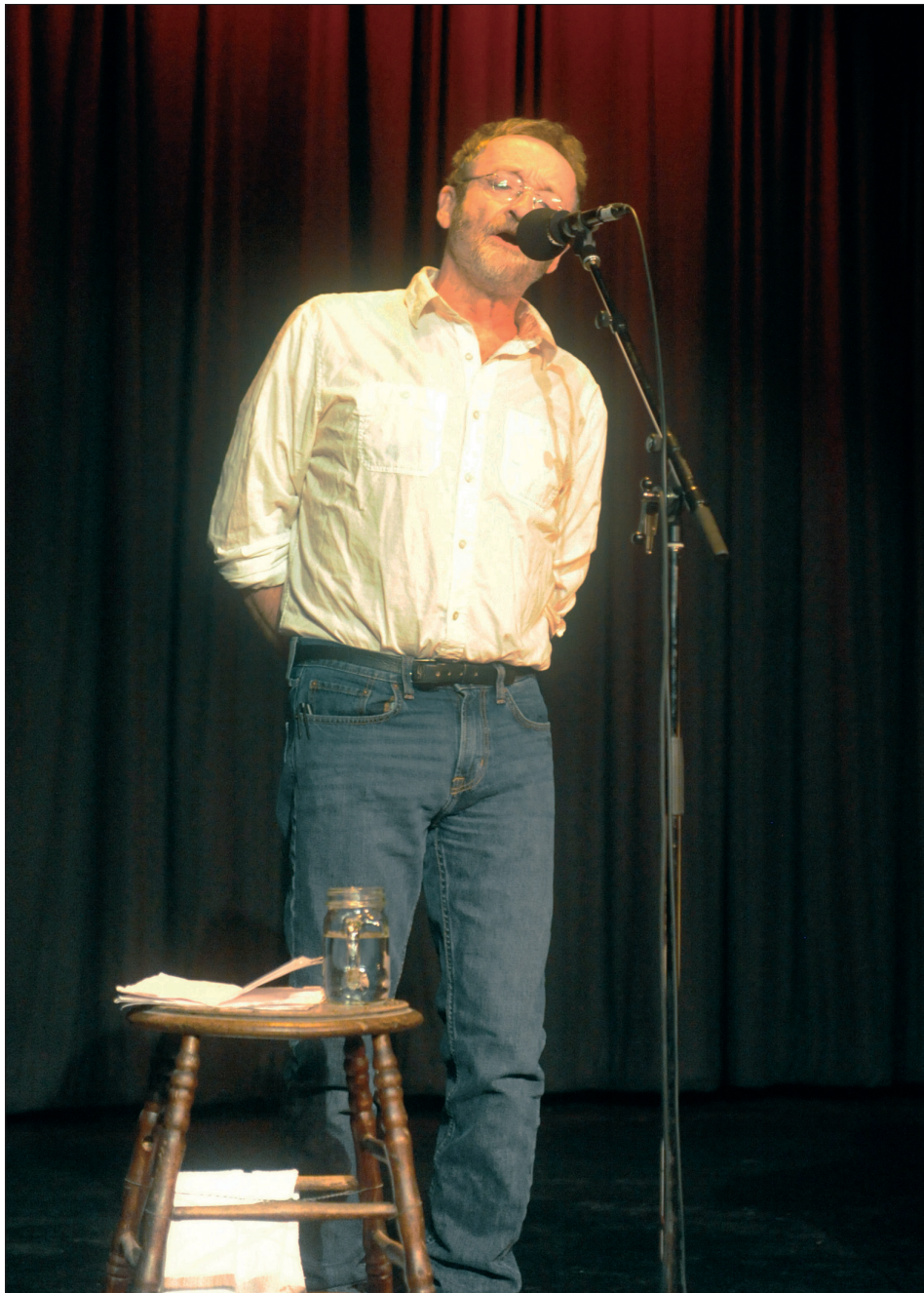
The 2015 cultural centre budget was approximately \$335,000.

The centre – which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Nature's Place interpretive centre – now has one curator for the entire facility and also employs support staff.

Devolin noted the cost for centre, which had grown from \$147,000 in 2005 to \$340,000 a decade later.

While Coleman said attendance for events at the cultural centre has been good, overall walk-in traffic, as well as volunteerism and

see COLEMAN page 2



Folk society fancies Francey

Singer/songwriter David Francey sings *Come Rain or Come Shine* on Jan. 30 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Put on by the Haliburton County Folk Society, the concert was a perfect blend of harmony and hilarity, as Francey entertained the audience with anecdotes and laugh out loud stories in between songs. The singer, who is originally from Scotland, was joined on stage by guitarist Mark Westberg and bango/guitarist Chris Coole.

ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

Hatchery included in county budget

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors passed the municipality's 2016 budget during a Jan. 27 meeting and that budget includes a \$10,000 grant for the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association for the operation of the Haliburton fish hatchery.

The budget totals about \$21 million, approximately \$14.3 million of which will be levied through taxation.

The county tax rate will increase by 3.85 per cent for 2016, or from \$177.85 to \$184.68 for every \$100,000 of assessment on residential properties, and from \$263.70 to \$273.83 for every \$100,000 of assessment on commercial properties.

Two per cent of the increase will contribute \$280,000 to the municipality's reserves, which are sitting at less than \$4 million heading into 2016.

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, which operates the Haliburton fish hatchery, had requested a \$10,000 grant to help with the operation of the facility, which sparked discussion at a Jan. 13 meeting of the county's finance and correspondence committee.

While the county stopped giving grants to outside organizations in 2013, it has continued to provide funding for the hatchery, under the auspices of the tourism department.

As a condition of a \$10,000 grant in 2015, members of the HHOA were to work closely with the tourism department throughout the year to ensure there was communication regarding marketing activities, however, tourism director Amanda Virtanen said this

see THIS page 2



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Coleman asked to slash \$50K from centre

from page 1

associated fundraising, has flatlined in recent years.

"This has gone on long enough," Devolin said. "I can't justify this to the ratepayers anymore."

The cultural centre represents \$340,000 of the \$1.2-million community services draft budget, which also entails parks and recreation, including the operation of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Council is aiming to keep the property tax increase for Minden Hills residents under 10 per cent in 2016.

"We have challenging times in the municipality," Devolin said.

Without reductions to the draft budget, as

well as dipping into reserves, it would represent a 15 per cent increase over last year's tax levy.

The township will use about \$440,000 of some \$5 million in reserves to help mitigate the impact to taxpayers.

The second year of the five-year-phase-in of the provincially mandated new OPP billing formula will see police costs for Minden Hills rise by \$391,000 in 2016. That's the equivalent of a 6.23 increase in the overall tax levy, which will be passed directly to residents.

While most department heads, including Coleman, delivered increases of zero per cent or better, there will be an increase in the roads department of more than \$600,000,

mostly due to construction and equipment costs. The \$3.2 million roads budget makes up the largest portion of the township's approximate \$5.5 million budget.

There will also be an increase in the fire department of \$64,000, for a digital radio upgrade and emergency plan, bringing its total to just more than \$500,000.

Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch praised the cultural centre for its uniqueness, but said the facility has a problem attracting visitors, which is causing a problem for the township.

"That is a very unique corner in probably all of Ontario," Murdoch said. "Where the whole thing falls apart, we have hardly any people coming there. We need to somehow get the word out there, come and have a look

at it. I would never want to see it shut down. Get it under control for costs? Yes."

Devolin admitted that he'd thought about all the other places the township could use \$340,000.

"I thought about that for half a second and put it away," he said.

In a bid to increase revenues at the cultural centre, council voted Thursday to return to admission by donation at the centre. A system of admission fees for each particular attraction, or an overall rate for the entire centre, that has been in place the past few years has not proven effective in increasing revenues.

Council will have a second round of budget discussions in coming weeks.

'This is a monster that's going to consume us'

from page 1

hadn't happened and that the department had to actively seek out information on events and programs.

While Algonquin Highlands Reeve and County Warden Carol Moffatt implied the hatchery was getting special treatment with continued funding, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey said the HHOA was different than other organizations because it has a physical asset that is costly to maintain.

Fearrey also stressed the hatchery puts about 30,000 fish into county lakes each year.

Between the committee meeting and the Jan. 27 council meeting, there was a meeting with members of the HHOA and Virtanen said the association acquiesced to the county's request that it do a better job of reaching out and assisting with marketing activities.

The HHOA will receive \$10,000 for 2016. The money will come from \$23,000 the county had over-budgeted for benefits. While the draft budget had included an ap-

proximately 10 per cent increase in premiums, based on an estimate from the county's benefits consultant, benefits premiums will increase by 4.4 per cent.

As always, the roads department comprises the largest portion of the county budget at approximately \$5.8 million.

EMS and health services has a budget of \$3.1 million; social services and housing \$1.1 million; the Haliburton County Public Library \$790,000; administration \$530,000; tourism \$405,000; planning \$330,000; and IT just less than \$300,000.

More than \$210,000 is budgeted for the Haliburton County Rail Trail; \$140,000 for council; \$135,000 for buildings and \$63,000 for forestry/conservation.

The 2016 transfer to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation totals nearly \$1 million.

Some councillors, including Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen, were not prepared to pass the budget last week, wanting more discussion.

"There has been no opportunity for coun-

“This can't continue. I know that structurally, we need to give this house, top to bottom, a serious look.

— MINDEN HILLS REEVE BRENT DEVOLIN

cil as a whole to really discuss the budget in depth," Danielsen said.

Danielsen, who sits on the county's medical professional recruitment committee, has said while there is some money in reserves for the purpose, the county will need to come up with more money for recruitment activities as some doctors begin to leave to Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

"We need to make a long-term commitment," Danielsen said.

While Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin supported passing the budget last week, he said in the future, changes needed to be made in the way the budget was brought forward.

If councillors need to have a discussion about physician recruitment funding, for example, they should be doing that before being asked to approve the budget.

Devolin, who pointed to the Lean Six Sigma cost-efficiency exercises undertaken in the City of Kawartha Lakes, said there needs to be a larger philosophical discussion about municipal finances.

Devolin pointed to mandated salary and benefit increases for staff.

In the EMS department and health services department, where the budget increased from \$2.8 to \$3.1 million, "85 per cent of the increase is wages and benefits," he said.

"This is a monster that's going to consume us. This can't continue. I know structurally, we need to give this house, top to bottom, a serious look."

Highlands East man dies in Dark Lake snowmobile incident

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Times Staff

A 53-year-old man from Highlands East died after the snowmobile he was on went through the ice Friday night.

Thomas Rivers was recovered by the Ontario Provincial Police Underwater Search and Recovery Unit at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 30 in Dark Lake in Highlands East.

According to the Haliburton Highlands OPP, Rivers was travelling with three other people on two separate snowmobiles when the machines broke through the ice at 11:39 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

"Officers attended the scene with members of the Highlands East Fire Department and located three of the four snowmobilers who went through the ice," a news release from the OPP reads.

According to Const. Dianna Dauphinee of the Haliburton Highlands detachment,

the other three individuals managed to pull themselves out of the lake prior to police arriving on the scene.

When the USRU located and recovered Rivers on Jan. 30 he was deceased.

OPP say the investigation is ongoing.

Dauphinee told the *Echo* she could not speak to whether the snowmobilers had been consuming alcohol before heading out on Friday night.

When the news of Rivers' death made its way through the community, messages of

grief began pouring in on social media.

On the *Echo's* Facebook page, Daryl Sands wrote "Olivia Sands, Tom was the nice gentleman who came to help you out when 'Bluebaru' wouldn't start for you," referring to his daughter.

Yvonne Le Page wrote that Rivers would be missed by many.

Many organizations are reminding recreation enthusiasts to stay off the ice, as milder temperatures this winter has left ice conditions unpredictable and thinner than usual.

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INFORMATION PAGE

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 11, 2016

9:00 am, COTW, Minden Council Chambers

February 16, 2016

9:00 am, Special Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Please Note: Council will continue its 2016 Budget Deliberations during the February 16, 2016 Special Council Meeting

February 25, 2016

9:00 am, Public Meeting, Council Chambers

Please Note: To continue with the 2016 Draft Budget at the February 25th, 2016 Public Meeting.

February 25, 2016

9:00 am, Regular Council Meeting, Council Chambers

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to continue with the 2016 Draft Budget Deliberations.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk at 705-286-1260 ext. 205 or email: dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

Visit us online at www.mindenhills.ca

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A free 6 week drop in program of Nordic Pole Walking, which is a low-impact exercise that provides the highest benefits for health, wellness and fitness for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Where: Meet at Scout Hall parking lot (in behind the arena)

When: Tuesday mornings 11:00am, starting February 16th until March 22nd

For more information please contact Elisha at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Take Notice, a Public Meeting will be held regarding the 2016 Draft Budget on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk at 705-286-1260 ext. 205 or email: dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

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Thursday February 4th and 18th

11:00am-12:00pm

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Friday February 12th: Snowdon Park Conservation Area

11:00am

Meet in Snowdon park parking lot (off County Rd #1)

Friday February 26th: Dahl Forest

11:00am

Meet in the Dahl Forest parking lot (off County Rd #1)

For more information please contact Elisha at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

All snowshoeing programs are dependent on the weather. Please call ahead to ensure they are occurring.



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Maayke Schurer is engaged in the development of magic realistic moving-image works, which entail real-time experimentation without the use of digital effects or manipulation. As such, her works are handmade, using naturally occurring elements such as light, smoke, water and reflection. Schurer is a graduate of Queen's University where she received undergraduate degrees in Fine Art and Biology. She received an MFA from the Glasgow School of Art in 2009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- File No. SRA-14-02:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Mountain Lake, lying in front of Lot 4, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9754, registered July 21, 2015.
- File No. SRA-14-08:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of Lot 8, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9773, registered September 11, 2015.
- File No. SRA-14-10:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of Lot 8, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, designated as Part 2, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9773, registered September 11, 2015.
- File No. SRA-14-11:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Lot 20, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Minden, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9807, registered January 6, 2016.
- File No. SRA-15-05:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Clear Lake, lying in front of Lot 16, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9779, registered September 18, 2015.
- File No. SRA-15-10:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of Lot 28, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9776, registered September 17, 2015.
- File No. SRA-15-11:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of Lot 11, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-9809, registered January 14, 2016.

The above noted plans of surveys are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario during regular office hours.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the proposed By-Laws will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting to be held in the Municipal Council Chambers at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, on **Thursday, February 11, 2016** at the hour of 9:00 a.m. At that time, Council will hear in person or by their counsel, solicitor, or agent, any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. If deemed advisable, the proposed By-laws will be passed at its regular meeting to be held on **Thursday, February 25, 2016**.

DATED AT THE Township of Minden Hills, this 4th day of February, 2016.

Ian Clendening, MPI.
 Planner

Kids waiting for Big Brothers or Sisters in Highlands

by JENN WATT
Editor

When a young person “ages out” of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program before ever being matched with an adult, it breaks Alyssa Wilson’s heart.

Wilson is a case manager with Big Brothers Big Sisters for City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. She says she sees it happen too often and is concerned about the number of kids and teenagers waiting in Haliburton County – especially boys.

“I noticed a lot of our kids have been waiting for several years to meet somebody,” Wilson says.

There are currently 18 kids waiting to be matched.

“I need males to start stepping forward because most of my waiting list children are boys.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters asks that the “Bigs,” or adults, be willing to give about three hours a week and commit for a year to the “Littles,” however, that is flexible.

“If you can commit every other week three to four hours, that’s fine too. Give us a call and say this is what I can offer,”

she says.

Snow birds, who go to hot climes each winter, will sometimes send postcards to their Littles or find other ways to connect during the two or three months they are away.

It’s more important to make the connection and have to miss a few months than to not participate at all. Bigs can be any adult over the age of 18. The oldest Big in the region right now is 89 years old and participates in the in-school program.

In Haliburton County, there aren’t any volunteers working with kids in the schools through Big Brothers Big Sisters, but Wilson would like that to change.

It is a one-hour commitment once a week on school property. The adult meets with his or her youth connection and does something fun. It could be playing a board game or reading a book or going outside and blowing bubbles.

The children on the waiting list are usually referred to the program by an educator at the school or through family. The

hope is that through Big Brothers Big Sisters the youth makes a connection with a caring adult, creating a trusting relationship that can also provide new experiences. Wilson gives the example of a kid going for a snowmobile ride or trying a new sport.

Circumstances vary between children as to why they are in the program with the commonality that they could use extra time with a role model.

Wilson says that those children who go through the program benefit in tangible ways. They’re more likely to get involved in community service as adults and are more likely to stay in school longer, achieving higher levels of education.

The screening for adults includes a police check, reference check and interview, but Big Brothers Big Sisters will come to Haliburton to do the interview process, even though the office is in Lindsay.

To inquire or sign up, give them a call at 705-324-6800.

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Haliburton County councillors will close the municipality's tourist information centre along Highway 35 in Minden. Leased from the chamber of commerce, the operation of the building costs the county more than \$60,000 a year. Last year, a third of its walk-in visitors were there solely to use the washroom. CHAD INGRAM Staff

Tourist info centre to close at year's end

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County will close its tourist information centre along Highway 35 in Minden at the end of the year.

County councillors made that decision during a Jan. 27 council meeting.

At a tourism committee meeting Jan. 13, tourism director Amanda Virtanen presented members with options regarding the future of the centre.

One was to leave things as they are. The second was a relocation of the centre. The third was to close the centre at the end of April.

Of the 3,700 walk-ins the centre had last year, nearly a third of those people were there solely to use the washroom. Excluding the salary of the tourism information clerk, the centre cost \$62,000 to operate last year.

Excluding the visitors who came just to use the washroom, Virtanen said this meant the cost for each customer engagement at the centre last year was \$23.58, versus the .0003 cent per customer cost of each digital consumer impression the county makes online.

“Would we ever spend \$62,000 on an ad that reaches 3,000 people?” Virtanen put it to committee members.

The plan to close the centre caused concern among members of a tourism stakeholders group that makes recommendations to the tourism committee.

Comments from a Jan. 20 stakeholder meeting submitted to council stressed the importance of face-to-face

interaction and bed and breakfast operators said they sometimes get last-minute business from people who stop at the info centre looking for a place to stay.

“This issue has raised a lot of concern in the community,” said County Warden Carol Moffatt, who said the decision was one of council and added that Virtanen had taken undue flack from some members of the public. “For the public to be unfair to a staff member for something she is not responsible for is not appropriate.”

“There’s obviously been a lot of reaction to this . . . some of it’s knee-jerk and heartfelt,” said Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Daniels, who suggested extending the closure date of the centre until the end of the calendar year.

The county’s tourism information clerk will work out of the county office on Newcastle Street in Minden and Virtanen pointed out the closure of the centre will give her more time to be out in the community helping with tourism initiatives.

“The tourist information clerk can be of assistance out in the community if she is not tied to that building,” Virtanen said.

Councillors were comfortable with the closure of the centre, a concept they seemed to agree is outdated and not worth the money it’s costing the municipality.

“It’s way out of sync on a value basis,” said Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin. “What we’re talking about here is metamorphosis. We’re going to do a better job. We’re going to change it, but we’re going to do a better job.”

The county leases the Highway 35 building from the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Minden Hills supports Blue Dot movement

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 28 meeting of Minden Hills council.

Minden Hills councillors passed a resolution supporting the Blue Dot movement, a campaign from the David Suzuki Foundation calling on municipal governments to encourage provincial governments to encourage the federal government to add the right to clean environment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In the county, the campaign was promoted by Environment Haliburton, members of which visited local councils last year requesting support.

Insurance costs rise

Insurance premiums for the township are going up nine per cent, to nearly \$275,000, plus provincial sales tax. Meghan Callaghan of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Canada Inc. told councillors the increase was caused by three factors. One was that while the rate under the township's automobile policy had remained the same, the township had added vehicles to its fleet. The second

was that while rates had stayed the same under the township's property policy, assessment had increased the value of the holdings by two per cent. The third factor was liability, with Callaghan noting some "adverse development" in claims in 2015. "Minden has consistent claims years after year after year," she said.

Extra cost for retaining wall

A retaining wall at the Scotch Line landfill cost an extra \$4,000. In October, council approved the construction of a retaining wall in the recycling bin area at the landfill for just under \$17,000. A staff report showed that when the old wall was removed, it became evident the new foundation would require additional support and extra ditching was required. Staff approved the additional work, totally just less than \$4,000, as the contractor was already on site, a report shows.

Property purchases

Council approved the purchase of alum pumps for the township's waste water plant for approximately \$11,500. The pumps deliver aluminum phosphate to the plant's aeration tanks.

Software upgrade

Council gave pre-budget approval for a \$20,000 software upgrade in the building and bylaw department. The department purchased CityView software, which went live in July of last year.

Tandem truck

Council granted pre-budget approval for the purchase of a tandem truck for the roads department. Part of the township's asset management plan, the tandem truck, with plow equipment, will cost \$240,000.

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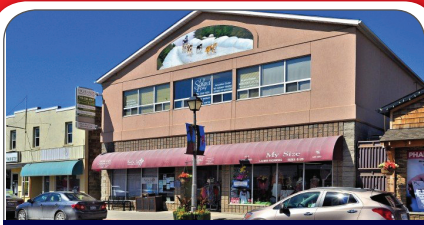
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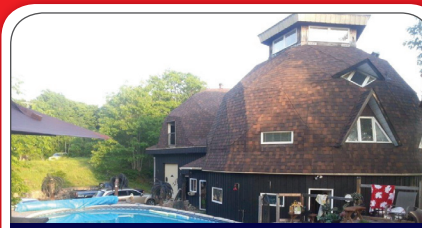


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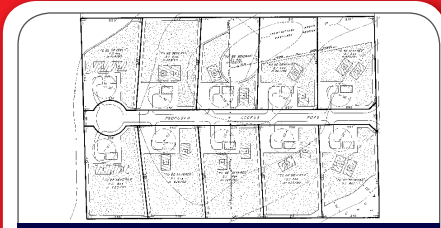


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Metamorphosis

HALIBURTON COUNTY COUNCIL has decided the county will close its tourist information centre along Highway 35 in Minden at the end of year and that's OK.

Actually, it's a good, progressive decision.

The decision to shut the facility, which for years has been a pitstop providing maps, brochures, friendly conversation and an all-important lavatory, has elicited some blowback in the community.

Face-to-face contact upon arrival in the Highlands is important, critics say.

People, not all of whom are tech-savvy, need somewhere to find information, say others.

Fair enough. There are ways to provide those things, ways that don't suck up 15 per cent of the county's tourism budget.

According to the county's tourism director, of 3,700 walk-in visitors to the info centre last year, 30 per cent – nearly a full third of all visitors – were there solely to use the washroom.

Really let that soak in.

Excluding the salary of the county's tourism information clerk, who will continue to work out of the county office and in the community, the county paid about \$62,000 to operate the centre in 2015.

That is nearly 15 per cent of the department's total budget. Excluding the folks who stopped at the centre for the sole purpose of relieving themselves, the cost per customer interaction equates to \$23.58. That's \$23.58 to hand someone a map, versus the fraction of a penny it costs

per customer impression through online platforms.

It is 2016. The vast majority of travellers have done their research and made their bookings before their trip. They have done so using their computers and smartphones.

It would be different if the information centre was a grand, timber and stone building, a facility that was a tourist attraction in itself.

But it's not.

The tourist centre building looks like someone misplaced their garden shed along the highway.

It looks like a burger shack without the burgers. It is a glorified outhouse.

And a costly one.

The money saved by closing the centre will be freed up for marketing purposes that will enhance the county's resonance with its target market in the GTA.

As for the hands-on touch, the face,

somewhere to go . . . that is where the community, the businesses and residents of Minden, can step in.

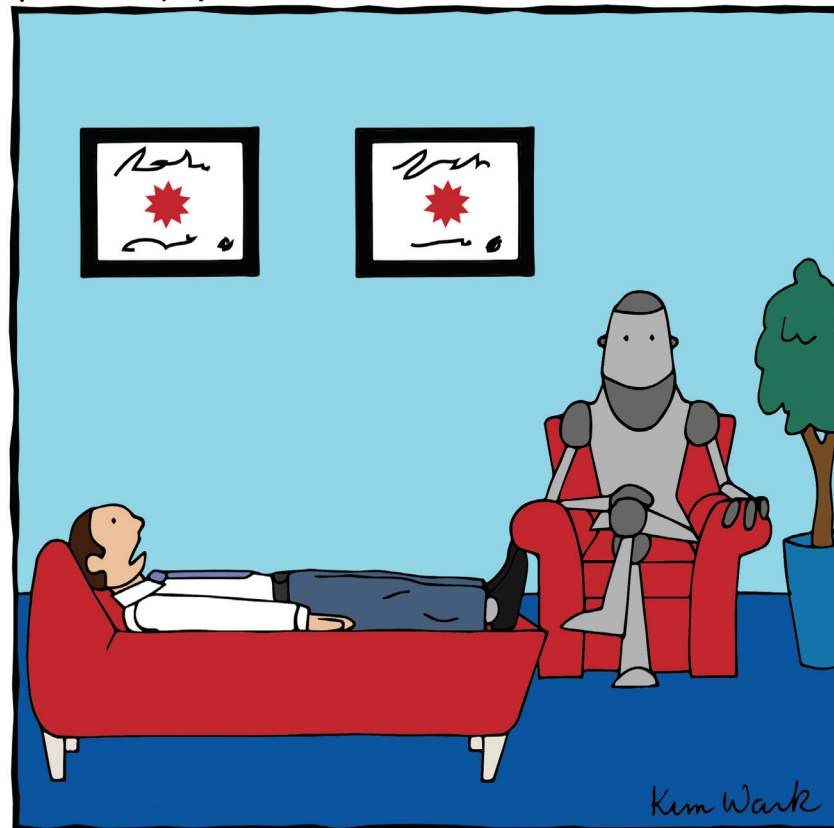
In doesn't require much work to keep Haliburton Highlands promotional materials, maps and brochures at one's office.

We do it at the *Minden Times* office, often giving advice and directions to those unfamiliar with the area.

I'm sure this happens at plenty of other businesses as well.

Washrooms can be found at a multitude of businesses along the Highway 35 corridor.

The information centre has served its purpose, but in the digital era, is a relic becoming increasingly irrelevant and which no longer makes economic sense for the municipality.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Reporter**KWARKY**

"I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO BE REPLACED BY A ROBOT AT WORK."

Chickening out

THIS MORNING I was surprised to learn that Americans will eat 1.3 billion chicken wings during the Superbowl alone.

I was surprised because that's actually three less than I thought.

I'm not sure why Americans love chicken wings so much, but they clearly do. Whatever the reason, this is not great if you are viewing it purely from the chicken's perspective.

In fact, if you are a chicken who happens to be reading this column – perhaps because it's lining the bottom of your chicken crate – this next bit is for you.

OK, you must really hate us – and that's quite understandable. But let me assure you this is nothing personal. We humans will eat just about everything. Heck, we'd eat dirt if we could find a sauce that would make it taste as good as you.

Unfortunately for your kind, chicken is the gold standard against which all other foods are compared. And your wings, when deep-fried and covered in delicious, unhealthy sauces rank right up there with any creation mankind has invented.

I can't stress this enough. You are truly delicious.

If I were to offer you any advice at all it would be, you need to either plan a great escape or hire a new public relations firm – for turkeys.

You see, it would really serve chicken-kind well if you were to somehow convince the American public that turkeys have wings even better than yours. If you had an inside PR person working for you on the American Turkey Growers Association, you might also be able to get rid of the perception that turkeys are just for special occasions like Christmas and Thanksgiving.

At the very least, you could put out the message that turkey wings are also the perfect Superbowl snack.

Obviously, I'd stress the fact that they are much bigger. Then, I might lie a bit and suggest that they taste better too. Americans are always on the lookout for bigger and better.

I'm not going to lie to you; it won't be easy.

Americans love their chicken wings to the point where I almost feel like they would argue possessing them is protected under the Second Amendment. That's why you are going to need to also find a way to make our American friends rethink this.

First, I'd have our PR guy start a smear campaign against chickens. You might have him spread the rumour that chickens don't use deodorant, for example. Or as a species, you might start toughening up those arms. Why not use your perch as a chin up bar?

Whatever you choose, there's no time like the present. It's clearly too late for those 650 million chickens who are now walking around without wings, but if you hurry you might be able to turn things around before the next Superbowl. Even then, it will be difficult.

Oh, who am I kidding? It will be virtually impossible to convince Americans that there is a food as perfect for football viewing as your wings.

It would literally take a miracle and that's not going to happen unless chickens really get religious. That, combined with a positive pro-turkey wing campaign might convince our neighbours to go easy on you next Superbowl.

I guess what I'm saying is you don't stand much of a chance – you are basically counting on a wing and a prayer.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Courage in the cold

IT WAS JUST BEFORE 1 A.M. on Feb. 3, 1943 when the torpedo struck, beginning one of the most inspirational stories of the Second World War. Most of the 904 men aboard the USAT Dorchester were in their bunks, although probably not asleep because of the rough seas and fears of a submarine attack. The Dorchester, a luxury ocean liner converted into a U.S. troop transport ship, was just off Greenland when the torpedo exploded amidships, disabling the ship and causing it to list heavily to starboard.

The torpedo was fired from U-223, a German submarine prowling the North Atlantic for ships carrying enemy troops and supplies.

Many men on the Dorchester died immediately and many others were wounded. There was chaos as men fought to get through passageways and up stairs onto decks. Four Army chaplains, a Rabbi, a Catholic priest and two Protestant ministers, helped wounded, disoriented and desperate men to get to decks where there was some chance of survival.

Those who reached the decks found that some lifeboats could not be launched because of damage and heavy ice coating their ropes. Men flung themselves into the freezing sea hoping to reach one of the few lifeboats afloat, small life rafts or pieces of debris. The ocean temperature was one degree Celsius.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

On one deck, the four chaplains opened a locker and distributed life jackets. The locker emptied quickly and there were not enough life jackets for everyone. One chaplain removed his own life jacket and gave it to the next man in line. The other three chaplains immediately gave away theirs.

One survivor, John Ladd, said later: "It was the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

Fewer than 30 minutes after being torpedoed, the Dorchester went down. Survivors reported seeing the four chaplains on deck, arms linked, praying and singing hymns as the ship slipped beneath the icy waves.

The four chaplains were: Rev. George L. Fox, Methodist; Rabbi Alexander D. Goode; Rev. John P. Washington, Catholic; and Rev. Clark V. Poling, Reformed Church in America.

They were four of 677 men who died in the Dorchester sinking. Only 227 were rescued.

Clark Poling was the last of seven unbroken generations of clergy in his family. He was one of my family's distant cousins.

The selfless action of the chaplains was not the only story of courage from that night.

The Dorchester was travelling in a small convoy that included the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Comanche, which set about rescuing survivors. Nine Comanche crewmen and three officers volunteered to jump overboard, tie ropes around floating survivors and help pull them from the icy waters.

One volunteer was one of the lowest ranking men on Comanche - Charles Walter David Jr., 26, an Afro-American Mess Steward. As a black man, Charles David was not allowed to eat in the same restaurants, or watch a movie in the same theatre, as white people.

He and the other Comanche volunteers risked their lives to save 93 men from the Dorchester.

One of the men David saved was the Comanche's executive officer, another volunteer rescuer. He was succumbing to hypothermia and could not get back onto the Comanche. Mess Steward David went back into the water and dragged him up a cargo net to safety.

David, who had a wife and three-year-old son, also suffered hypothermia working in the freezing wind and water. He came down with pneumonia and died after the Comanche reached Greenland.

There is an interesting epilogue to the Dorchester story. The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia held a special anniversary ceremony in 2000 and brought in two special guests from Germany. They were German sailors who were aboard U-223 that tragic night.

The foundation's view was that even former enemies must be included in a world of peace and brotherhood.

The courage displayed on that night on the North Atlantic 73 years ago remains a timeless example of brotherhood and service to others.

"Valor is a gift," American writer Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it till the test comes."

Email: shaman@vianet.ca

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letters to the editor

Beware of phone scam

To the Editor,

Last Friday I received a phone call from a lady stating she was calling from Montreal. She said my name had been drawn for either Visa or Mastercard and that I was a preferred customer and that I had won \$100 worth of gas coupons.

She then proceeded to say that also in the package there would be other coupons for groceries and clothing, also a special deal on West

Jet flights.

To get this package there was a \$4 charge for postage. She asked than for my credit card numbers to pay for the postage. She said she would hold until I give her my credit card number. I guess she is still holding as I hung up.

Just a warning to everyone, don't get caught up in any scam.

Helen Burk

Gala tickets on sale

Tickets for the 10th annual Business & Community Achievement Awards Gala are now on sale. This is the business event of the year that brings together community and business leaders from across the county.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is inviting members of the community to join us as we recognize and celebrate excellence in the Haliburton Highlands.

With 94 nominations received for 65 different businesses, organizations and individuals, it truly is a testament to the amazing work and accomplishments happening each and every day.

The 10th anniversary Gala is taking place

on Saturday, Feb. 27 at Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$70 which includes a gourmet dinner, reception, nominee and award ceremonies, and a silent auction, with a dance to follow.

We are expecting another sold out event, so we encourage everyone to reserve your tickets now. You can contact Autumn Smith at the chamber at autumn@haliburtonchamber.com or by calling (705) 457-4700.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce would also like to congratulate all of the nominees. You can find the full list at www.haliburtonchamber.com.

Submitted

**Send your letter to the editor to
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Mitch and the Professor: Live at the Dominion Hotel in Minden

It's not every day that an Aerosmith alumnus comes to the Highlands, but one is on his way to entertain us. The Canadian Blues Legends is proud to present Professor Piano Scott Cushnie and his long-time friend, guitarist Mitch Lewis, in a special, intimate evening of Swing, Boogie Woogie, Blues, and early Rock. The dynamic duo will be playing the Dominion Hotel in Minden on the evening of Friday, Feb. 12, just in time for Valentine's.

Scott Cushnie is simply a fabulous player and is recognized as Canada's premier boogie woogie performer. He's a legend in the Canadian music scene and his roots go way back. So much so that Robbie Robertson of The Band fame once played in Scott's group, the Suedes. Scott, aka Professor Piano has also performed with Mike McKenna, and Danny Marks and produced for and performed with Ronnie Hawkins. He toured with Aerosmith on the Toys in the Attic tour and is the piano player on the live album of the same name. Scott has also fronted his own successful bands, the Rockin' Deltoids and the Canadian Aces, and he conceived and recorded "Two Pianos, No Waiting" with the brilliant

keyboardist Doug Riley.

Mitch Lewis, long-time guitar player in Scott's bands has also played with Valdy, Jackie Washington, Jimmy Bowskill, John Lord of Deep Purple the Mamas and the Papas, Murray McLaughlin, and Doug Riley. He's Mister Versatile, and he'll have to be at the Minden gig, because the Professor will be playing everything from Fats Waller to Jerry Lee Lewis plus his own quirky, sometimes funny, sometimes wistful originals.

No, there won't be any Aerosmith tunes, but what you will hear will put a smile on your face.

Don't miss this intimate evening of guitar and piano with two Canadian music legends. Tickets for the Friday, Feb. 12 gig can be purchased online at DominionHotelPub.ca or by pick up at the Hotel. First set starts at 8 p.m.

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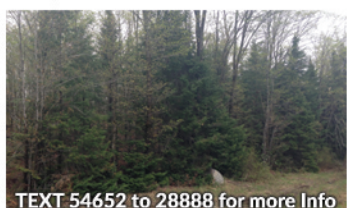
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Check out Rotary

Minden Rotarian and president-elect Lynda Litwin organized a fantastic month of speakers focused on making the club's New Year resolutions a reality for Minden club members. Finance, yoga/mindfulness and nutrition were topics for the first three weeks of the month. On Monday, Jan. 25, Litwin arranged an open house showcasing the work and fundraising efforts of the club for guests and potential new members. If you're interested in getting involved with the Rotary Club of Minden, contact president Betty Mark at remark@xplornet.ca. /SUBMITTED

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Winners

Minden Curling Club held its annual Winter Mixed Bonspiel on Jan. 22 and 23. Great competition, great food and loads of laughter. The winners of the Jug City trophy for A division were the Barry Moylan rink from Annandale C.C. Vice was Susanah Moylan, second – Bob Barron, and lead – Meribeth Barron. Winners of 'B division, sponsored by Heat-Line Corporation, were the Paul Prentice rink with Patti Prentice, Iain Kay and Joyce Nilsson. C Division winners, sponsored by Bill Kulas Realty, were the Ed Cyr rink with Jane Boyd, Bert Kennedy and Winn Taylor. D Division winners, sponsored by Coneybeares Butcher Shop were the Norton Garry rink, including Barb Millington, Dave Millington and Sandria Garry. Submitted by Mike Clewlow (convenor)



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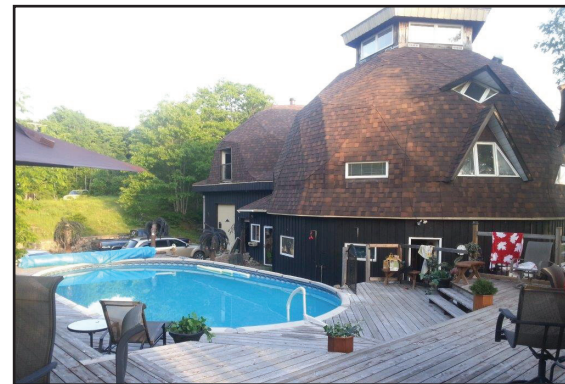


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County signs new broadband deal

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County is entering into a new agreement with Bell for the provision of high-speed Internet to a number of publicly owned buildings that will increase the number of public wireless hotspots in the municipality.

The deal, facilitated through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, will cost the county approximately \$360,000 and see improved high-speed Internet service extended to 24 public buildings.

Rogers Communications Canada Inc. has informed the county of its intention to shut down its wireless network in the municipality by the end of May. This will affect eight points of presence at public buildings in the county.

"We need fibre everywhere, we really do," said treasurer Laura Janke, adding that the county should be doing anything

it can to move toward that. "What Bell is telling us, is they are growing the fibre network."

The request for proposals (RFP) for the project was done through EORN, seeking an optimal deal for the 13 municipalities that comprise the area represented by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

"I think it's important to point out the county is not the author of this RFP," said Algonquin Highlands Reeve and County Warden Carol Moffatt. "This is not a residential fibre project. It's municipal connectivity."

The county contributed \$500,000 to the \$170-million EORN broadband project that was completed in 2014. That project attempted to provide high-speed Internet to 95 per cent of homes and businesses in the area, although many residents in the county are still without access. Many residents have also expressed discontentment with the quality of the satellite Internet service meant to fill the gap areas.

The buildings that will be connected through the new project include the Haliburton County office on Newcastle Street

in Minden; the Dysart, Gooderham, Minden, Wilberforce, Highland Grove and Cardiff branches of the Haliburton County Public Library; the Dorset Recreation Centre/library/Algonquin Highlands office on Main Street in Dorset; the Tory Hill and Minden EMS bases; the Algonquin Highlands office on North Shore Road; the Dysart arena; the Rails End Gallery; the Dysart township office; the Highlands East township office; the Minden Hills arena, the Minden Hills township office; the county public works garages in Ingoldsby, Eagle Lake, Kinnmount and Highland Grove; the Dysart roads garage; the Haliburton Highlands Museum; and the Minden Hills roads garage south of Minden.

Moffatt noted that some of the locations may seem strange, but said the county is not an easy sell for telecommunications companies and that at this point it's about providing as many points of presence as possible.

Moffatt also said the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is working on trying to close the gaps in Internet service and that Xplornet is working on a rural wireless gap analysis.

County grants bylaw relief for clear cut in Algonquin Highlands

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

County councillors have granted a request for relief from the municipality's tree-cutting bylaw for the clearing of six acres of a red pine plantation in Algonquin Highlands.

The owner of a woodlot off Tulip Road near Carnarvon filled out what is considered a minor relief application to clear six acres to use agricultural land as a wildlife feeding area, growing wheat, clover, etc.

According to a report from county conservation officer James Rogers, there is evidence the property was previously used for agricultural purposes.

"The plantation is approximately 40 years old and has re-

cently been thinned out under a good forestry practices regime," the report reads. "There is evidence of previous agricultural use of this portion of the property. Upon review of the application and a visit to the site, it appears that the clearing of this area will not have a significant impact on the forest resources of the area on a landscape level. No issues were identified in the Species at Risk database, however, it is the applicant's responsibility to exercise due diligence with respect to the Endangered Species Act."

The application form stated the cleared lumber would be utilized and not destroyed and that a 40-foot buffer of mixed softwood would be left between the cleared area and the roadway.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen expressed concern over the application.

"Here comes my tree-hugger hat," Danielsen said. "It

doesn't seem minor to me. There's wildlife everywhere."

Danielsen said she also did not consider the use to be agricultural.

Rogers said there was no set definition for what constitutes minor relief.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve and County Warden Carol Moffatt said she didn't understand the idea of cutting down wildlife habitat in order to feed wildlife.

"There's very little undergrowth, if any," Rogers said.

Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin, who previously worked in the forestry industry, said he'd seen cases where there'd been more wildlife on a property following a clear cut.

Devolin said he had no problem with the application.

"The pine plantation is a manmade construct," he said. "I don't have a problem with it."

The application was approved by council.

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Vet gives gift from the heart

Jen Morrow, owner of Minden Animal Hospital presents Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH Community Services with a \$439 donation. Morrow and her team donated a portion of all pet nail clipping fees before Christmas to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign. SUBMITTED

Camera club goes to the streets

Here are the top three winning images from the Haliburton Highlands Camera Club's latest competition.

The assigned topic was Street Photography. Most of the

entries came from a field trip the club took to Kensington Market in Toronto (we named the outing "Herding Cats." You try getting a bunch of photographers to meet at a certain

place and time!). It's a very challenging genre that relates closely to photojournalism. Photos must be candid and the goal is to tell a story with the image.



First overall was, *Just a-ridin' in the Rain* by Glenn Springer, advanced class



Second overall was *Street Life* by Christine Brickman, intermediate class



Third overall was *Escaping* by Sharon Brickman, novice class.

Dale Goldhawk to speak at Pinestone Resort

Focusing on their vision "that the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County are safe, respectful places for seniors to live free from abuse," the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Elder Abuse Prevention Network is hosting a free event, Safe and Secure Aging in Haliburton County for seniors on Thursday, March 3 at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Keynote speaker Dale Goldhawk, host of *Goldhawk Fights Back* on Zoomer Radio AM 740, will inform seniors on how to prevent themselves from being scammed and abused and provide strategies to stand up for their rights to ensure grow-

ing older shouldn't hurt. A recipient of both the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Goldhawk will highlight many personal anecdotal stories that he has collected over the years as a strong consumer advocate.

Const. Dianna Dauphinee, community services officer for the OPP Haliburton Highlands detachment will highlight important facts about reporting frauds and scams to the police. Elder Abuse Network chairperson Sheri McKeen states "With the growing incidence of seniors being defrauded, our goal is to prevent seniors from becoming the victims of frauds

and scams." McKeen is pleased Dauphinee will be participating in this special event, stating "the OPP officer will provide seniors with the tools they need to recognize frauds and walk them through the steps on how to report a crime."

The event is free for all seniors and caregivers, through the generous support and funding of a seniors community grant program provided by the government of Ontario.

Those interested in attending must register by calling 705-457-1600/ 1-800-263-3877 ext. 3131 or online at www.goldhawkspkouts-affiliate1.eventbrite.com.

Submitted



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CHAMBER NEWS

WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR!

Congratulations to **LISA GREGORINI** for her appointment to the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors!

Lisa is new to Haliburton County as the co-owner of Canadian Tire. She has previous experience sitting as board member, treasurer, and president of the Trail District Chamber of Commerce.

Lisa was appointed by the Board on January 19th.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Breakfast with the Warden

Tuesday, March 15th
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Location: Stanhope Community Centre

Catered by: Molly's Bistro
Speaker: Warden Carol Moffatt



10th Annual Business & Community Achievement Awards Gala

Saturday, February 27th
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Pinestone Resort

Cost: \$70

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Local snowcross competitor Izac Reid negotiates a turn during the SCM/CSRA National Snowcross race from Jan. 22 to 24 in Trois-Rivieres Quebec. Reid, who has been racing in CSRA for the past five years, loves the family atmosphere at races.

Follow him on Reid Racing on Facebook. Reid's sponsors this season are Byers Equipment Motorsports, TEAMLTD, CARQUEST of Minden, County Sign and Display, Jug City, the Highlander, Back Country Photography and Design - By Shelby Mahon, Fly Racing, Tekrider TekVest, Haliburton Timbermart, Old No. 7, Cranberry Cove Enterprises, Gamma, Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Limited, Dragon, Dayco and Timbir Contracting.

Photo courtesy of Shelby Mahon, Back Country Photography and Design.



Passion fuels drive for CSRA racing

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Like the graffiti script on a wall, Izac Reid shows his left arm with the tattoo, "live to ride."

It drives his passion in life and is part of why he races a snowmobile in snowcross.

Racing isn't just what the 16-year-old Minden teen does for fun, it's who he is and what he thinks about a lot.

Motor racing has been a part of his family ever since he was young.

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 11 student has been racing for five years in the Canadian Snowcross Racing Association (CSRA). Snowcross includes several high powered sleds, vying for the same lines and the same goal. Winning.

The races are on a course that includes a series of jumps, various degrees of radius curves from short to long sweepers and straightaways. Think motocross and you get the idea.

A successful race in snowcross depends on the "hole shot" — being the first competitor to the opening corner.

"You got to focus everything on that light. When the green light goes the first one to the first corner has a huge advantage not only because they're in first, but the roost from other snowmobilers from snow going in your face just slows you up. When you get out front you can just ride really clean. Full vision. Nothing to worry about," he said.

At the line, when all the competitors are revving their engines, keying on the start, Reid focuses.

"I just keep telling myself that I want that hole shot worse than they do. I want to be there first. I need to be there first to the first corner," he said.

He's always looking to win, but loves to race regardless of the outcome.

This season Reid is competing on his Polaris sled in the sport 600 and earning experience in the pro-light classes.

He had a strong opening to the nine race CSRA series at the International Snowcross Grand Prix in Rouyn Noranda.



HHSS senior student Izac Reid shows his tattoo, "Live to Ride." /DARREN LUM Staff

Quebec on Jan. 16/17. Reid finished first and third in sport there and then capped it off with a seventh in pro-Lite. He was leading the overall points in the sport class after the event.

A week later in St. Alexia Des-Mont, Quebec at the SCM/CSRA National Snowcross Triple Crown where the field of competitors was far greater because it included Quebec and Ontario riders, Reid wasn't as fortunate and did not have any notable finishes.

As of writing, Reid was excited about racing indoors this past weekend at the Royal Distributing Cup National Snowcross in Barrie at Georgian Downs.

It's a great opportunity, he said, to enable his entire family, including his wheelchair bound grandfather to watch him. This race was also where he cut his racing teeth, having raced for the first time there. Two years after he started there he got his first CSRA win.

Reid earned the podium in the sport 600 finals on both days in Barrie, capturing first on Saturday and a second place on Sunday.

With Snowcross the track is never the same.

"When you're on a ice rink all the ice is going to be the same. A basketball court is always going to be the same and a dirt bike track they change a little bit, but snowcross track it could be soft snow and then with 15 sleds out there the track completely changes every lap of a race. You just have to be ready for anything," he said.

He has a personal track on his family's property where he regularly rides three to four days a week to stay sharp if his sled isn't in need of repairs.

The "whoops" — a series of tightly placed jumps on a straight, similar in look to a several camel humps — are the real challenge for him, he said. It not only requires strength and stamina, but also focus to not make a mistake.

When it comes to the rush of catching air or hitting the perfect line there's not much that's better. Reid has done it on everything bikes, ATVs and dirt bikes to snowmobiles.

"Anything I could get on, I pretty much like to jump. It's always been one of my favourite things. I like to get in the air," he said.

The teen is quick to point out that while racing getting air isn't part of being fast.

He appreciates the all of the support he has received in his racing career. His parents (sometimes his sister) and family friends Jeff and wife, Carleen Milburn, have always been there cheering him on, supporting him any way they can, whether it was with morale or with mechanical help.

It's this family atmosphere that really stands out to the teen.

"I've never had a sport that has so many families involved. Every team is just so friendly and family-based. Everybody's out there to have fun and win at the same time, which is great," he said.

He said it started with them as spectators of snowcross racing.

Like any type of racing, there are crashes, but because of the limited racing lines on each course there can be a lot of contact between sleds and riders.

The physical jostling between as many as 10 other sledders

doesn't bother Reid after several years of experience. He accepts it's part of the sport.

Long term, Reid has set his sights on making the pro open class.

He has considered a professional career, but knows that would most likely be possible in the US where the sport is larger in its coverage, fields, support and purses are greater.

With several years, he has matured as a racer and took the main lesson taught at this past summer at a fitness bootcamp to heart, which is to always "ride smart."

"Focus one step at a time when I'm on the track. Take one corner at a time, one jump at a time. You can't start thinking of the end of the race before the end of the race or you'll crash or something will happen," he said.

Reid has applied it to his off-season workouts, which have evolved into focusing on muscle stamina instead of strength and include stretching. His ability to recover from a weekend of racing has dramatically improved. He will compete close to 12 motos/heats (races to make the finals) a weekend, not including practice sessions.

He wants younger riders to understand the bigger picture instead of being overly aggressive.

"You just got to remember ride smart ... until last year I was always the kid that was placing some weekends and other weekends I'd over ride and crash and not finish some races. It's all about consistency," he said.



Izac Reid loves racing and appreciates the support he gets from family and friends. /DARREN LUM Staff

Hockey match brings team from Ancaster to the Highlands

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Times Staff

When hockey coach Matt Lester had an idea that involved a hockey team, the S.G Nesbitt Memorial arena and the Haliburton Highlands, he wanted to see it through.

Lester, who has grew up cottaging in the Haliburton Highlands, has been coaching the Ancaster Avalanche, a girls Midget B minor hockey team, for the past couple of years.

The team, which has made it into the playoffs this year, was looking for a challenge and so Lester set up a match against the Bancroft Jets, which include many players from Haliburton County.

“We’re in a different division than Bancroft but we thought it would be neat to play someone outside of our division,” said Lester.

The game took place this past weekend on Saturday, January 30 at the Minden arena and was a close game right until the very last minute, said Lester.

“It was a character win, Bancroft was winning 2-0 and we came back,” said Lester. “Bancroft had a penalty shot late in the game and our goalie saved us.”

The match, which was described as friendly by the Ancaster coaches, was a good test of skill and speed for the Avalanche players.

“Last year Bancroft, which were called the Highland Storm last year, won the all Ontario Provincials,” said Lester. “This is basically the same team this year ... so they’re a really, really good team and they have been in first place in their decision. So we thought what better test to be against last year’s champs and see how we match up.”

The coaches believe the game couldn’t have worked out any better and commended the players and parents on sportsmanship, friendliness and hospitality.

“They were having fun out there today,” said coach Rick Moon.

“Both teams were,” said Lester.

The Avalanche also commended the superb hospitality and graciousness of the arena staff, who not only personally greeted them at the door but treated the hockey team like they were VIP guests.

The Avalanche team includes 18 female players between the ages of 15 to 17.

Some have been playing hockey for a few years, inspired by an older brother or simply the love of the game, others have been playing since the tender age of five.

The team’s captain Allie Stephen is one of those players.

Starting her hockey career as a Timbit, Stephen, now 16, lives and breathes the sport.



The Ancaster Avalanche girls minor hockey team visited the Haliburton Highlands this past weekend to face off against the Bancroft Jets at the Minden arena on Jan. 30. The Avalanche won the game by a final score of 3-2. While in the county the team took in some traditional winter activities and explored the Highlands. Front row from left, Pyper Moon, Rachel Quade, Sophia Martineau, Jane Gowland and Danielle Armenio. Second row from left, Tori Gurman, Sarah Hutchings, Maddy Atkins, Laurence Marceau, Lindsay MacLean, Megan MacLean and coach Matt Lester. Third row from left, coach Rick Moon, coach Trevor Kett, Kate Pearson, Lauryn Hamilton, captain Allie Stephen, Samantha Brown, Madeline Lester and Megan Vogel. Missing from the photo is coach Karl Quade. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

“We’re competitive and we just have fun with it, that’s all you could ever ask for in a hockey team,” she said about the Avalanche.

The captain said the experience up north has been a great bonding time for the team, which spent a few nights in the area.

“It’s really nice here,” said Stephen.

While in the Highlands the team stayed at Bonnie View Inn, which has a special place in Lester’s heart. The Inn’s dining room is the exact spot where the coach proposed to his

wife more than 20 years ago.

Being very familiar with the area, (Lester works for Haliburton based media company Supertrax Media Inc.), the coach had some winter activities planned for the team, including an Amazing Race challenge of sorts.

His hope was to share his passion and love for the area with the team, many of whom had never been to the county before last weekend.

Novice Storm ties Bracebridge Bears

The Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm needed a win this weekend to move on, however they just couldn’t pull it off. The first game was an over time loss with the final score 5-4 for the Bracebridge Bears. Goals were scored by Kadin Card, Addison Carr, Graeme Armstrong and Colby Coumbs. The second game was a 4-4 tie. This was a nail biter. The Highland Storm trailed for most of this game. But they were not going to lose. The Storm tied the game up in the third to put the game into overtime. However, the next 10 minutes stayed scoreless and the Storm had to take the tie. Goals scored by Nathan Morrison, Mak Prentice, Cheyenne Degeer and Isaac Lee. Next weekend the Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm play Feb. 6 at 4:30 p.m. in Gravenhurst vs the Bracebridge Bears and Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. in Haliburton at the A.J LaRue arena vs Bracebridge Bears.

Submitted by Amber Card

Tykes end weekend with 10-0 victory

The Tom Prentice and Sons/RM Carpentry Highland Storm Tyke team travelled to Parry Sound on Saturday, Jan. 30 to complete in the Parry Sound Three-on-Three Fun Day tournament. It was a great day of fast hockey. The Highland Storm Tyke team divided their squad into two teams. Both Storm teams played extremely well and remained undefeated until they had to square off against each other on two different occasions. Rookie goaltenders Hudson Horsley and Deagan Davison each earned themselves a victory, while each Storm team ended the day with a 5-1 record. Every Storm player netted themselves a bundle of goals and assists. Congratulations

team on a great day.

On Sunday, Jan. 31 the Tom Prentice and Sons/RM Carpentry Highland Storm Tyke team were back on the ice in full team form facing off against Parry Sound. As soon as the puck dropped the Storm set the tempo of the game with many rushes, passing plays and offensive scoring chances. It was another shutout for Chase Winder, the Storm goalie. Goals were scored by Connor Byrne, Brechin Johnston, Vanek Logan, Jace Mills, McLean Rowden and Josh Scheffee. The Storm team ended the weekend with a 10-0 victory and left Parry Sound with many great moments to celebrate. Way to go, Storm!

Submitted by Janice Scheffee

Midget A Storm reflect on season well played

The Dollo’s Foodland and Smolen’s Dentistry Highland Storm Midget A team hosted the Parry Sound Shamrocks on Friday night in Minden for game two of their best of five playoff series in which Parry Sound leads 1-0. The game opened with a defensive effort on both sides and it wasn’t until the second period, on a clean Shamrock breakaway, that they notched the first marker and followed it up with a powerplay tally to end the second period with the Storm down 2-0. The Storm came out in the third with a renewed offensive effort and Andrew Hall scored midway through to bring the home side within one but that is as close as they could come as the Shamrocks scored an empty netter in the last minute to ice the win 3-1.

Saturday night the rivalry shifted locations to the enchanted confines of the Bobby Orr Community Centre in Parry Sound where the Storm needed a win to extend the series. Both sides again came out with a defence – first scheme but the Shamrocks were able to break through on the powerplay to put one past alternate goalie Ethan Howe in his first start of the series. With renewed intensity Haliburton’s Mac Rider evened up the affair less than a minute later but the home team was able to sneak two more past Howe to finish the period with a 3-1 lead. Coach Wood changed up goalies, to the veteran Parker Smolen, to begin the second and perhaps give the team an offensive spark. With the Shamrocks in their magical defensive shield the Highlanders had a rough time creating sustained pressure and the second ended identical to the first period with a 3-1 score. The tight checking continued throughout the third with Parry Sound tallying with just over three minutes left to spell the game and the series. In true sporting fashion both teams shook hands and the Storm wished them well on their continued journey in the Midget playoffs.

I would like to thank head coach Gord Wood for his tireless effort and patience this year as he hangs up his coaching blades after 16 years! I would also like to send my appreciation to assistant coach Paul Gonyea, trainer Tom Prentice and manager Karena Crofts for the many hours (and many emails in Karena’s case) to make this team happen, give our teenagers a respectful and organized place to play hockey and to keep the parents informed.

Submitted by Katie and Dave Howe

see MIDGET page 16

Midget B Bancroft Jets lose exhibition game

from page 15

The Bancroft I.D.A./Canadian Tire Midget B Girls Jets played an exhibition game against the Ancaster Avalanche on Saturday afternoon in Minden. The Jets (15-3-4) hosted the Avalanche (11-6-5) from the South Central loop to keep their game focus during their first round bye in league play-offs. The Jets will play the winner between the Cold Creek Comets and the Lindsay Lynx sometime after the Feb. 21 first round deadline.

On Saturday, Bancroft jumped out to an early 1-0 lead on the first shift of the game. Kenndal Marsden surprised the Ancaster net-minder with a quick snap shot from the high slot that went off the blocker-side post. Midway through the first period Katie Funk gave Bancroft the dreaded 2-0 lead. Sydney Feir's pass sprung Funk on a neutral zone breakaway where she let go a bar down rocket wrister beating the Avalanche tender cleanly.

The Avs continued to to pressure the Jets and netted their first goal late in the third period tucking home a rebound to get on the scoreboard. Ancaster tied the game at 2-2 on the first shift of the second period when they finished off a breakaway from a nice breakout pass to get their play started. The Jets went down 3-2 with less than a minute left in the second period when a defensive zone breakdown led to a third unanswered goal. Kenndal Marsden had a chance midway through the third period to tie the game up on a penalty shot after being tripped up on a breakaway but the Avs tender stopped the deke attempt. Try to stay game ready Jets and practice with focus as you await your second round league play-off competition. Continue to work on your neutral zone puck management, limit your defensive zone breakdowns and use your offensive zone puck possession to create and capitalize on your scoring chances ... a key component to steal the tight games. Your second

half of the season will need your focused efforts to win the tough league play-off and provincial play-down challenges to extend your post season. Good luck the rest of the way Jets!

Submitted by Dan Marsden

Peewee AE Storm takes on Otters

The Walker's Heating and Cooling Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team Peewee AE's travelled to Huntsville on Saturday to take on the Otters in game one of the best of five preliminary round playoffs. The Storm killed off an early penalty and then took a 1-0 lead on a Tyler Martin goal. The Otters would score twice before the end of the second period in a game that was relatively quiet and similar to a couple of heavyweight boxers feeling each other out in the opening rounds. The Storm tied the game early in the third on a Brendan Coumbs spin-a-rama but the Otters responded shortly after to regain the lead 3-2. The Otters then got an insurance marker with just under a minute to go to take the opener 4-2.

The teams met again on Sunday back in Haliburton for game two and the Otters would set the tone 30 seconds in off the opening faceoff to take a quick 1-0 lead. Brendan Coumbs would tie the score with a high wrist shot just inside the post a few shifts later. That would be as close as our locals got; the Otters would go on to dominate the remainder of the game easily winning 10-1 and putting the Storm in a must-win situation on Tuesday when they travel back to Huntsville for game three.

Submitted by Gord Hoenow

Peewee A off to great start

Sunday afternoon the JoAnne Shapley's Source for Sports Highland Storm Peewee A team clinched round one of the

playoffs, winning game three by a score of five to nothing against the Parry Sound Shamrocks. Alex Little had four assists and Darian Maddock was solid in net recording his 12th shutout of the season.

The Storm displayed a high energy that surprised the Shamrocks from the beginning which served well to set a tone that the Storm were willing to regulate. Fast transitions with crisp first passes and smart dumps-ins had the Shamrocks constantly pivoting and not able to gain much possession and consequently any momentum. The Storm struck first with a goal from centre Joe Boice at 2:22 of the first, which was the only goal of the period. Few players have matched the tenacity and hunger forward Dylan Keefer plays with this season, and this game was no exception. Keefer had another multi-point game scoring one and assisting on another, winning 50-50 pucks along the boards and being a complete nuisance in the Shamrocks' zone. The second ended with the storm up two to nil, and the visitors fading fast. The third period started with a bang when forward Nick Phippen showed a beautiful touch tipping a Alex Little blast from the point bar-down, and just the way they drew it up in practice. When on his game and focused, Nick Phippen displays dynamic skills, and hockey a IQ, that pays dividends in all three zones. Ten minutes later Boice added another which seemed to zap the life out of the visitors and their ruckus supporters. All but one anyway. Aaron Bellefleur scored the fifth goal, which sealed the deal on this convincing win, and closed out round one of the playoffs in a clean sweep. Congratulations boys, but it only gets harder from here!

Submitted by Trevor Maddock

Winterfest

in Minden Hills

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13th

CATCH THE CURE~FUNDRAISER 1:00pm-7:30pm
SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre
Hockey game, figure skating exhibition, public skate, spaghetti dinner, silent auction, face painting, outdoor games, live music
Check out : CatchTheCure.ca or [Catch the Cure 2016 on Facebook](#) for more info.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST 10:00am-1:00pm
Community Centre
Hosted by the Haliburton County Fair Board
Cost is \$8.00 (includes pancakes, sausage and beverage). Children 6 and under eat free

SHINNY (ages 8-12) 10:00am-11:00am
SG Nesbitt Arena
All participants must wear proper gear. No cost!

SHINNY (Kids vs Adults) 11:00am-12:00pm
SG Nesbitt Arena
All participants must wear proper gear. No cost!

ICE CAR RACING 12:00pm
Fairgrounds
Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Minden

PUBLIC SKATING 12:00pm-2:00pm
SG Nesbitt Arena

CURLING 2:00pm-4:00pm
Curling Club
Hosted by the Minden Curling Club
Equipment is provided, all you need to bring is clean indoor shoes. No cost!

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15th

FIGURE SKATING CARNIVAL 2:00pm
Hosted by the Minden Figure Skating Club

FAMILY ACTIVITIES 10:00am-3:00pm
Cultural Centre
Hosted by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre
Fun indoor and outdoor activities throughout the day for the whole family.

Family Cartoon History Pictures 10am – 10:30am
Giant Canadian Bingo 10:30am – 11:30am
Cookie & Marshmallow Snowman Decorating 11:30am – 12pm
National Film Board Animated Shorts 1pm – 1:30pm
Relays and Games 1:30pm – 3pm
National Art Gallery and other Heritage Computer Activities 1:30pm – 3pm
Agnes Jamieson Gallery open with video art exhibition "Nature Situations" by Maayke Schurer

For more information on these events please contact Elisha at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca



Above, the leader of the Winter Ecology guided snowshoe hike, Sheila Ziman points out lichens on rocks on Jan. 28 at the Frost Centre, located north of Halls Lake. Ziman is one of the founders of the Haliburton Land Trust and Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists. The hike included 10 participants.

Right, the participants of the Winter Ecology guided snowshoe tour on Jan. 28 at the Frost Centre take a break for a photo. Led by one of the founders of the Haliburton Land Trust and Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists, Sheila Ziman, the tour included stories and education on the surroundings.

Photo submitted by Melissa Alfano



Make tracks at drop-in snowshoe program at Frost Centre

DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
malfano@hotmail.ca

I went along on the Jan. 28 "Winter Ecology" guided snowshoe hike at the Frost Centre trails with Sheila Ziman, one of the founders of the Haliburton Land Trust and Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists. There were 10 of us altogether and it was a wonderful hike!

Sheila is a great story teller and very knowledgeable about nature in the highlands. I would encourage you to visit the Frost Centre Ski & Snowshoe trails, 20130 Hwy 35 about 12km south of Dorset and get out, explore and enjoy why we choose to live in this area!

And perfect timing, Algonquin Highlands is offering a "Drop in Snowshoe Program" at the Frost Centre Ski & Snowshoe Trails on Tuesdays from Feb. 2 to March 22, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Snowshoes rentals are available first come, first served at a special price of \$5 (usually \$15) thanks to funding by the Government of Ontario

through an Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund grant. This is a great opportunity to try a new sport without breaking the bank!

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned the "Hang Your Blue" campaign. Another poster has appeared around the village about this confusing topic. What the heck is "Hang Your Blue?"

According to the poster, all we need to know is that we are being asked to support ... something ... by hanging something blue at the Dorset Pavilion – a shirt, a blanket, a ribbon, an ornament – just something blue – anything – be creative. Organizers want the Pavilion and old school park area to be totally covered in blue by the time the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival rolls around – which is Feb. 19 and 20. We are told, don't worry about why – just go with it! All will be revealed at the next Dorset Community Partnership Group meeting taking place on Monday, Feb. 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

You're invited to come out to the last Dorset Snowball meeting before the big weekend. The meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. and this is the meeting where we fill in the gaps. If you have an hour or two to spare on Feb. 9, come on out to this meeting and see if there is anything you can help with at the carnival. There are lots of indoor and outdoor op-

portunities to help. All are welcome! Visit www.dorsetsnowball.com or call the Dorset Rec Centre at 705-766-9968 for more information.

Appointments for the next Foot Care Clinic taking place at the Dorset Rec Centre on Wednesday, Feb. 10 are now being accepted. Foot care includes nail trimming, filing callouses, cream and gentle massage. To book an appointment, call Fran Gower, RN, at 705-635-1229.

Balance, Strength and Fall Recovery Yoga classes with Caroline Hutt are back! Classes will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting Feb. 23, skipping March 1, then March 8, 15, 22 and 29. This program is geared to older adults although all welcome. This class will help to improve balance, coordination, mobility and reduce the risk of falling. The cost is \$25 for five weeks or \$5 per class and advance registration is required. The program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Birthday wishes for Jan. 24 to Feb. 6 go out to Bill Ellerington Jr., Nathan Jones, Joy Moon, Kassie Wright, Mitchell Webb, Mark Kearhey, Libby Timbers and Ryan Flynn. If you have items or birthdays for the Dorset News, please send them along to malfano@hotmail.ca or give me a call at 705-766-0076.

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Drop ballot off at the Echo or Times Office
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UPCOMING Community Events

See more events in our Winter Guide, available on newsstands across the Haliburton Highlands.

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

Dated Events

Minden Legion Initiation Day

When: February 6 1:00 pm

Where: Minden Legion

The public and all members encouraged to attend. Light lunch to follow.

Highlands Trio

When: February 6 4-7 pm

Where: Minden Legion

Minden Legion will be holding an Initiation Day. All members encouraged to attend. Light lunch to follow. No cover charge, donation for band. Food available

MINDEN: S.T.O.P. (Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients) Program

When: Saturday, February 6, 10 am.

STOP Program supports smokers trying to quit by providing them with five weeks of nicotine patches at no cost. Smokers will also get educational material and other resources to help them in the quitting process. To see if you are eligible, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 2000.

St. George's Anglican Church Pancake Supper

When: Tuesday Feb. 9/16 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Where: Haliburton Legion

No cost, donations only

Supporting Local Community Outreach or Haliburton Refugee Sponsorship

HALIBURTON: Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, February 10, 10:30 am to Noon

The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association, BBQ Lunch

When: Sat. February 13/16, 10:30 - 2:00 pm (Family Day Weekend)

Where: Intersection of Rail Trail B103 and HCSA #9 in Donald

Come and join us for a BBQ lunch, meet other club members and Directors and see how a Groomer works. We will have peamel on a bun (\$5.00), hot-dogs (\$3.00), drinks and chips. There will be on the spot draw prizes. Contact: hcsa.ca or ejesseman@bell.net

Family Day Weekend Pancake Breakfast (presented by Haliburton County Fair)

When: Sunday, February 14th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Where: Minden Community Centre, S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (upstairs)

55 Parkside Street, Minden

Cost: \$8.00 (children under 6 eat free). Includes pancakes, sausage and a beverage

Minden remembers war vet Ed Deeks



LEGION BR. 636

The flag at Minden Legion has been at half-mast in recognition of the passing of Ed Deeks, veteran of the Italian Campaign. Our condolences to his family and friends. At the January Executive meeting, three more new members Linda Evans, Fred Hartlan and Reg Raby were accepted into membership in the Legion. They will be added to the list of five others who are being initiated this Saturday at 1 p.m. All members are asked to attend and welcome the new members. After the initiation there will be a light lunch provided for all members in attendance.

Also this Saturday, from 4 to 7 p.m. Highlands Trio will be entertaining at Minden Legion. There's no cover charge, just a donation to the band at the door. There will be food available, so come on out and enjoy the music and fun.

Sunday, Feb. 7 being the first Sunday of the month, it's Big Euchre Day at Minden Legion. The 12 games start at noon, and the admission of \$12 per person includes a lunch. This event is open to the public, so all Euchre players are welcome. If you are a member of the Legion, you can play Zone Euchre at Fenelon Falls Branch, on March 16. Registration fee for that event is \$40 per four-player team.

Time is fast flying for members to sign up for the friendly comradeship of Washer-Toss at Lindsay Branch on Feb. 27.

This game is a lot of fun and easy for members of any age and fitness level to play. It's similar to Horseshoes but you throw a ring into a box. Cost is just \$25 per two-player team and registration starts at 10 a.m. on the 27th. If you win, you will be expected to represent our Zone at Port Hope on March 12 at the District levels. The cheering section is open to everyone, but in order to play you'll need a valid Legion membership card. If you'd like to play, there's a registration form on the board in our Sports Room, be sure to indicate which event.

Rose Merritt of Haliburton was the winner of the January's Dinner for Two draw at the '50s Diner. Our thanks to owner Jason Lake for his generous donation toward the \$75 gift certificate. There will be no restaurant draw in February.

With 241 members paid up for 2016, it is crucial that our records are up to date, including phone numbers and email addresses. If you have moved or even had a change in postal code in the past few years, please call the Branch at 705-286-4541 and leave a message for Membership Chairman Rick Wilson.

At their meeting, the executive also approved donations totalling \$4,000 and renewed our membership in the Canadian War Museum. To see what the Museum in Ottawa has to offer, check out the museum guide at www.canadianwarmuseum.com.

Saturday, Feb. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m., Minden Legion will be welcoming the local musical talent of Gord Kidd & Friends

Dogsled Derby sprints into Haliburton

If you've never watched a dogsled race before, it's exhilarating and loud! With the dogs lunging, howling and barking to start racing, and leaving the chute reaching speeds of 30 kilometres per hour, there's lots of action to take in.

The Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby is world cup sanctioned by the International Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS) and close to 100 teams from across North America will converge at Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre in Haliburton, Ontario on March 5-6th, 2016. Mushers will race through a series of well-groomed trails and two kinds of racing will be offered; skijoring and dogsled racing.

Races run all day Saturday and Sunday with teams leaving the start chute at two minute intervals. The most popular

race every year is the adorable kid and mutt class, while the skijoring class offers a unique take on the sport with mushers on cross-county skis, pulled by one or two dogs. Of course, the 8-dog class offers maximum excitement.

While at the Derby, you'll be able to enjoy the Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre, which is located just five minutes south of the village of Haliburton. Choose from two restaurants on-site as well as a food booth located close to the races. Don't forget to bring your camera to record the action and feel free to chat with mushers before or after the race.

Story submitted



Haliburton is going to the dogs this coming March 5th and 6th when the Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby will be held at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. FILE photo

Notice

TRILLIUM LAKELANDS AND PVNC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS LAUNCH NEW ONLINE PROCUREMENT TOOL

Trillium Lakelands District School Board and the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board are pleased to announce the launch of a fully-integrated online procurement tool that will allow vendors to view, register, and submit bids entirely online in one quick, easy, and convenient location.

Highlights of the online e-procurement tool for vendors include:

- 24/7 Access
- All calculations are done automatically
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- Built-in bid compliance checker for 100% compliant bids
- Flexibility to modify and withdraw bids in advance of closing time and date

This new e-procurement tool will replace the school boards' current tender portal, located at www.biddingo.com as of February 25, 2016.

TLDSB vendors are to register at <https://bids.tlidsb.ca> and PVNCDSB vendors are to register at <https://bids.pvnccdsb.ca>.



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Public meeting on Burnt River library

AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury

705-488-2938

brucefleury1@hotmail.com

Here at the old farmhouse kitchen chores are more pleasurable again for the chickadees have returned. With no sign of the raccoons which had repeatedly emptied the bird feeders last winter we decided to try once again. Two days later the chickadees appeared with all their delightful aerobatics. Grandson Ben turns 12 this week and I still remember staying up into the early morning hours waiting for that welcome phone call. There are several other birthdays coming up during the month and a difficult anniversary of the loss of a sister. Granddaughter Emma, a graduate in theatre from Queen's University, usually takes centre stage however this time it is her father our older son David learning lines for his upcoming role in a Toronto production of William Shakespeare's romantic comedy/fantasy "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He is cast as weaver Nick Bottom, a member

of an acting troupe the "rude Mechanicals," and a part played by Hollywood actor Kevin Kline in the 1999 film version of the play. The role reversal is quite fun as it is now daughter patiently coaching father on both his lines and stage presence.

This is rather short notice however a free introductory yoga class will take place at the Kinmount Community Centre on this Thursday, Febr. 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please bring your own yoga mat if possible. For those interested in continuing an 8 week registered class series will be held from February 11th to March 31st. For more information or to register please contact Lori Penner at loripenner@elitemail.org or call 705-454-8451.

The City of Kawartha Lakes will hold a public meeting in regard to the Burnt River Library on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Burnt River Community Centre. If concerned and unable to attend there is a petition which can be signed as well at the branch open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is worth noting that the Library does not occupy a separate building but is located in the old school build-

ing and shares a home with the post office and the fire department. The enrichment that libraries and community centres provide to families through their programs and services is important and in this time of more limited resource allocation needs to be considered a priority as demonstrated by residents taking advantage of the opportunities offered.

Speaking of community centres mark your calendars now for the free Family Snowflake Ball at the Kinmount Community Centre on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. hosted by the management board. The annual Kinmount Winterfest will kick off the next morning Sunday, Feb. 21 with breakfast at the community centre from 8:30 to 11 a.m., and events for the whole family over the day at the Fairgrounds.

Bring your special Valentine to the Country Music Jamboree at the Coboconk Legion on Feb. 14th from 1 to 5 p.m. Hosted by the Country Hot Flashes with Scott Russell and Ron Lister admission is \$8 per person and the event will include an Open Mic, Square Dancing and food available by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary. The next Jamboree is

scheduled for March 13 so watch for future details.

The next monthly book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be held as Saturday, Feb. 20 (regularly on the third Saturday of the month) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the lower level of the Kinmount branch. All books are only 50 cents and donations most welcomed.

Bruce reminds that we are already into Random Acts of Kindness Week. These acts can range from a simple gesture like a cheerful "good morning" greeting or holding a door to dropping off useable items in those familiar red boxes. I must confess however that a two day depression set in just before Christmas. While waiting outside the Lindsay Mall entrance for Bruce to bring up the car I was weighed down by a too heavy winter jacket and boots plus fatigued from last minute shopping. Suddenly a cheerful young lady took my arm propelling me towards the parking lot saying "don't worry dear I'll help you find your car."

So until next week keep busy and well, they go together . . .

County card scores

Jan. 25 contract bridge at Stanhope: Top marks went to Ross Davies 6,320, Paul Pethick 5,020, Jackie Metcalf 4,750 and Jack Cox 4,510. There were two Small Slams by Ross Davies and Sandy McKay and Paul Pethick partnered with Sandy McKay while the Lucky Loonie went to Linda Voycey.

Jan. 26 contract bridge at Minden United Church: Congratulations to our reporter Nancy Ballantyne for taking top marks at 4,970 with Wally Ozog 3,800 next and Carol Bowker 3,640 third.

Jan. 26 Mixed Shuffleboard at Stanhope Firehall: Based on 6 ends June Fortune and George Hamilton were first with 272 then Bev Alexander and Yvonne Arbuthnot 249. Eleanor Lymer teamed up with John Fortune for third spot at 231 while Blanche Carr partnered with Ray Lymer posted the afternoon's low of 99. Thanks to Pearl Cowen for this news.

Jan. 26 euchre at Lochlin Community Centre: Most lone hand honours went to Hazel Benetin with Helen Burk high lady and Rae Dawn Shephard low. For the gents Harold Harvie was high and Terry Davis low

while Rae Dawn Shephard claimed the special prize. Thanks to Nancy McPherson for this report.

Jan. 26 Minden Seniors bid euchre at Minden Legion: Leading ladies were Gail Medcalf 290, Vi Howell 248, Sharon Jarvis 244 and Muriel McIntosh 237. First for the gents at 344 was Kevin Maloney followed by Clare Obdam 268, Chris Burton 267 and Ida Young 253. Sharron Atkinson won the major draw with Vi Howell, Jean Scadden and Archie Ross claiming the smaller prizes. Betty Wagar also reports that moonshots landed on Clare Obdam, Al McMullen, Ida Young and Kevin Mercer.

Jan. 27 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Playing Howell our bridge reporter [3 events] Muriel McIntosh and Ross Davies led at 64 percent then Reet Murray and Frank Schlotter 62 percent, Dee MacLean partnered with Joan Davies 53 percent and Jan and Dave Heaven 52 percent.

Jan. 28 euchre at Minden Legion: Tom Grix reports that the most lone hands were held by Theresa Deak and Al Arbuthnot with Donna Darby and Sharon Jarvis post-

ing the high scores. The evening's lows went to Linda Hopkins and Chris Burton while Yvonne Arbuthnot, Betty McDonald, Howard Smith and Elaine Yeo took home the other prizes.

Jan. 28 bid euchre at Minden Community Centre: Leading ladies were Vi Howell 300, Pat Norman 287, Shirley Milne 259 and Betty Wagar 258. First for the gents at 342 was Tom Grix followed by Dwaine Lloyd 335, Al McMullen 321 and Jesse Barlow 290. Marg Oetelaar held the hidden score, Sharron Atkinson took the card draw and Dwaine Lloyd call 1. Bev Johnson further reports that Kevin Maloney, Vi Howell, Jesse Barlow, Albert Foster, Gail Medcalf and Tom Grix [3] claimed the moonshots.

Jan. 29 duplicate bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: Playing Howell in first place at 61 percent were Ross Davies and Muriel McIntosh then Irena and Alek Zworski 56 percent.

Jan. 29 euchre at Staunworth Court, Minden: Winning for high hands was Bev Johnson, for lone hands our reporter Shirley Howe, for low hands Arthur Forbes and for the special

prize James Bastedo.

Feb. 1 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: Holding the most lone hands were Lyn Preston and John Platt with our interim reporter Pearl Cowen and Yvonne Arbuthnot posting the high scores. The afternoon's low went to Pam Pappas while Mary Trumbull was both the draw winner and the recipient of a visit from the skunk.

Feb. 1 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: Rose Isaacson reports that at 345 Marcy Morgan took top marks with Tom Grix 324 second [thanks Tom] and Frank Franzen 289 third. Frank also won the draw while Ron Morrison had the single moonshot of the afternoon.

Feb. 1 euchre at Staunworth Terrace, Minden: First an apology for an error on my part in last week's list of winners. The correct name for high hands should have been Arthur Forbes. This week winning for high hands was Pearl Cowen, for lone hands Elaine Smith, for low hands our reporter Sherin Brown and for the special prize Jean Randell.



More curling champions

Thursday evening B division winners at the Minden Curling Club were Len Goreski (Skip), Patti Goreski (Vice), Jim Carrell (Second) and Sheila Carrell (Lead). They were awarded steaks from Foodland. /Photo submitted by Wes Lytle

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650 OBITUARIES

Bruce Conboy

(Resident of Carnarvon, Ontario)



Peacefully at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge on Friday afternoon, January 29, 2016 in his 85th year. Beloved husband of Brenda Conboy (nee Peirce) for close to 56 years. Loving father Cheryl (Larry Parsons) and Frank all of Minden. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Elizabeth (Don) and Allan. Predeceased by his brothers Doc, Jim, Norm and by his sister Dorothy. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and by his brother-in-law / friend Cam (Pam) and by his many friends. Bruce was an Industrial Electrical Electrician with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) for almost 30 years. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting, fishing and inventing contraptions to make life easier.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Friday evening, February 5, 2016 from 6 until 8 p.m. Funeral Service in the Chapel on Saturday afternoon, February 6, 2016 at 2 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Cremation to follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #636 Minden or the Arcadia Masonic Lodge Minden would be appreciated by the family.

Masonic brethren are asked to assemble at the funeral home for a Masonic Service on Friday evening, February 5, 2016 at 7 o'clock.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Barrie Megrah

Passed away suddenly at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Thursday, January 28, 2016. At the age of 80.

Beloved husband of the late Zena. Dear father of Paula and her husband Mike. Loving grandpa to Ethan and Owen.



It was Barrie's wishes for cremation and a Private Family Interment Service at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

HALIBURTON Community FUNERAL HOME

Verna Sisson (nee Scheffee)

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)



Peacefully at Highland Wood Nursing Home in Haliburton on Tuesday morning, January 26, 2016 in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Max Sisson. Loving mother of Judy (Bob Thomson) of Peterborough, Jill (Haven Cook) of Haliburton and Blake (Delaine) of West Guilford. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Kelly (Paul), Jason, Amber (Doug), Ashley (Myles), Autumn, Reagan (Ashley), Caley and by her great grandchildren Kirsten, Jake, Jason Jr., Brock, Jesse, McKenna and Max. Predeceased by her brothers Leslie, Grant and Mark. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Verna worked at Pollards Clothing Store and for Brohm's Variety in Haliburton for years. She enjoyed curling, bowling, singing, fishing with Max at their trailer and spending time with the family.

Private Family Arrangements

A Private Family Gathering will take place. Interment Evergreen Cemetery later. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Highland Wood would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



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457-2128 x 23



Dagmar Boettcher**
489-9968



Janice Brookes*
457-2128 x 22



Kim Butt*
286-2138 x 31



Gloria Carnochan*
754-1932



Mark Dennys*
457-2128 x 30



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 26



Lee Gauthier**
489-9968



Andrew Hodgson***
286-2138 x 29




Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33



Denise LeBlanc*
286-2138 x 23

Head Lake Haliburton \$79,500



- Fantastic Triple lot in Haliburton
- Located on a quiet dead end street surrounded by towering red pines
- Access to private boat launch, private beach and picnic area
- Private Boat slip available

Drew Bishop 457-2128 x 23


Minden Quarry \$199,000



- Licensed and operating class "B" pit and quarry
- Great exposure on Hwy 35, allows for a variety of uses
- Consist of 7.84 Hectares of licensed quarry and pit
- Good quantities of landscape stones gravel and lower grade materials

Kim Butt 286-2138 x 31

Boshkung Lake Classic \$389,000



- Very appealing traditional 3 bedroom cottage
- Western exposure, deep water swimming
- Floor to ceiling stone fireplace, so much charm
- Miles of boating, great fishing, true cottage living

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138 x 26

Miskwabi Lake \$479,900



- Year-round home/cottage
- 3 bedrooms plus den
- Big lake western view, clean shoreline
- Awesome 2-lake headwater chain

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33

Eagle Lake Home \$229,900



- Recently built Guildcrest Home
- Close to Sir Sam's Ski & Bike
- Over 2 acres, private lot
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, jacuzzi tub

Erin Nicholls 457-2128 x 34

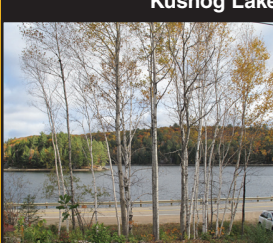
Big Barnum Lake \$549,000



- Viceroy style cottage w/250' ftg & west exp
- Open concept, pine vaulted ceilings, stone FP
- Master ensuite, walk-in closet & w/o to deck
- 480 sq ft Bunkie, great privacy, no motor lake

Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28


Kushog Lake View \$75,000



- Year round access between Minden and Dorset
- Easy access to snowmobile trails
- Gorgeous view across Kushog Lake
- Driveway in and partially cleared, ready to build!

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25


Lovely County Home \$179,000



- Yr round 3 bdrm home or cottage south of Kinnmount
- 13 acres close Burnt River access on municipal road
- Backs onto Rail Line for sledders and ATVs
- 2 small cabins also on property need repair

Dagmar Boettcher 457-5968

Kennis Lake Road, West Guilford-Commercial \$124,900



- 244.86 ft frontage and 184 ft deep approx
- Kennis Lk RD-West Guilford.Hwy Commercial
- Well, Hydro, Had septic approval(expired)
- Level easy to build on

Gloria Carnochan 754-1932

Fully winterized Cottage \$399,000



- 160 ft hard sand/rocky-deep shoreline on Halls Lake
- 1800 sq.ft. total living space
- 3 bdrms+, 2 bathrooms
- Bunkie with 2 pce bathroom

Lee Gauthier 754-1482

Brimming with Character in Minden \$212,000



- Gorgeous eat in kitchen w/island
- Mn flr laundry and oak flooring
- Covered veranda, 3 bdrms full basement
- Single car garage, view of the river and riverwalk

Denise LeBlanc 286-2138 x 23

Beautiful 100 Acre Parcel \$120,000



- Private accessible lot on year round road
- Just 12 minutes to Haliburton
- Features two ponds & is teaming with wildlife
- Perfect location to build your dream home or retreat!

Brandon Nimigon 457-2128 x 27

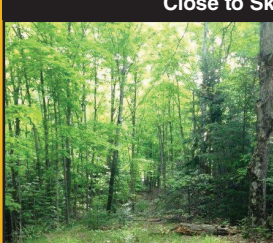
Minden Home \$224,900



- Fantastic in town location
- 3 + bedrooms with rental potential
- Large deck & well cared for gardens
- Park like setting

Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52

Close to Ski Hill \$34,500



- Building lot in Eagle Lake Area
- 1.37 acres with frontage on 2 municipal roads
- Easy access with services at lot line
- Public beach, shopping & restaurants nearby

Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25


2 bdrm + Loft bungalow with basement \$214,900



- 3 Season sunporch & main flr laundry
- Beautiful Lot and breezeway to garage
- Paved driveway & covered porch
- WALK TO ALL AMENITIES in Haliburton!

Janice Brookes 457-2128 x 22

Downtown Haliburton Opportunity \$249,500



- 13 Ft Rd Frontage, .01 Acres
- 1,325 Sq Ft, 2 levels and basement
- Municipal sewer and drilled well
- Perfect main street exposure

Mark Dennys 457-0473

Beautiful Waterfront Home \$439,000



- High end home in stunning setting on Drag River
- Great swimming, deep water off the dock, miles of kayaking
- Lots of room for guests with three bedrooms & a bunkie
- Custom kitchen, large open living area, Lots of upgrades!

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29

Highland Gate Estates \$209,000



- 4 bedroom side split
- Master with ensuite
- Sunroom
- Walkout basement
- Forced air heating + Pellet stove

David Lee 286-2138 x 27

Sand, Sun, Sunsets \$339,900



- 1.89 acres with 140 feet sand shoreline on Grace Lake plus 2 lake chain boating
- Private location with clean water swimming, Lake Trout fishing & Sun all day
- Perfect sand castle building site, hydro at lot line and snowmobile trails nearby!

Karen Nimigon 457-2128 x 29


Little Bob Lake \$139,000



- Looking for a lot to build on....
- Close to Minden and 2 Hours from GTA
- Year Round Access, Hydro & Phone @ Lot Line
- Gentle Slope from Road to Water

Melanie Vigrass 286-2138 x 32

13 Acres Minden Building Lot \$55,000



- 13 Well treed acres, both soft and hardwoods
- Building site and driveway in place
- Hydro and telephone at the road
- Backs on to privately owned, non-developed woodlands

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138 x 26



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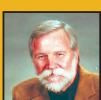
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